

IN THE CLAIMS:

Claim 14 is amended. Claims 23-27 are added. The following is the status of the claims of the above-captioned application, as amended.

Claim 14 (Currently amended). An animal feed additive comprising (a) at least one purified acid-stable protease and (b) one or more fat soluble vitamins[[.]] and/or water soluble vitamins, and (c) one or more trace minerals, wherein the protease is of the subtilisin family and/or has less than 10% residual activity when inhibited with a molar excess *Streptomyces* subtilisin inhibitor.

Claim 15 (Previously presented). The animal feed additive of claim 14, wherein the amount of the purified protease corresponds to 0.01-200 mg protease protein per kg feed.

Claim 16 (Previously presented). The animal feed additive of claim 14, wherein the protease is a *Bacillus*, NCIMB 40484 protease.

Claim 17 (Previously presented). An animal feed composition having a crude protein content of 50-800 g/kg comprising the animal feed additive of claim 14 and a vegetable protein or protein source.

Claim 18 (Previously presented). The animal feed composition of claim 17, which further comprises at least one enzyme selected from the group consisting of phytase, xylanase, galactanase, and beta-glucanase.

Claim 19 (Previously presented). The animal feed composition of claim 17, wherein the protease is a *Bacillus*, NCIMB 40484 protease.

Claim 20 (Previously presented). A method for the improving the nutritional value of a vegetable protein or protein source, comprising adding an animal feed additive of claim 14 to the vegetable protein or protein source.

Claim 21 (Previously presented). The method of claim 20, wherein the vegetable protein

Claim 22 (Previously presented). The method of claim 20, wherein the protease is a *Bacillus*, NCIMB 40484 protease.

Claim 23 (New). The method of claim 20, wherein the protease is a *Bacillus alcalophilus*, NCIMB 10438 protease.

Claim 24 (New). The method of claim 20, wherein the protease is a *Fusarium oxysporum*, IFO 4471 protease.

Claim 25 (New). The method of claim 20, wherein the protease is a *Paecilomyces lilacinus*, CBS 102449 protease.

Claim 26 (New). The method of claim 20, wherein the protease is an *Acremonium chrysogenum*, ATCC 48272 protease.

Claim 27 (New). The method of claim 20, wherein the protease is an *Acremonium kiliense*, ATCC 20338 protease.